FOREST ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

NORTHERN CIRCLE, BOMBAY PRESIDENCY,

FOR THE OFFICIAL YEAR 1894-95.

INTRODUCTION.

The Circle was in charge of undersigned during the whole year. The divisions were held by Messrs. Greatheed, Stewart, Hodgson and Wallinger, and Mr. Millett was in charge of the Working Plans Branch.

2. A considerable change in the forest area is shown in the report, being an increase of reserved forest by 52,475 acres and decrease of protected forest by 98,671 acres, but a large proportion of this is due to rectification of the records of the Forest Settlement Officer on whose report the change is made.

3. The Forest Survey cotinued its work on the 8″ scale; a large proportion of the Váda Range in East Thána being mapped during the season.

4. The Working Plans Branch made rather better progress in marking off coupes in advance of the requirements of the coming season in the two Thána divisions and a commencement was made in organizing the forests of the Panch Maháls division.

5. Protection as judged by percentages of convictions, &c., was satisfactory.

6. Protection from fire shows no improvement if mere figures are taken as a guide; but a distinct advance was made in the arrangements for protecting the Mándvi forests from fires coming from Gáikwári territory, which only failed because time and funds were wanting to complete them in time. The failure of the figures of results to show any improvement are most certainly due to their increasing accuracy year by year.

7. The financial results of the year were unexpectedly favourable. Large exploitations in the Jawhár, Dharampur and Baroda States failed to affect the demand and notwithstanding that purchasers from the Upper Dáng forests refused to take any wood under a revised system introduced this year, nevertheless the gross receipts amounted to Rs. 7,38,680 against Rs. 7,60,954 in 1893-94, and the net revenue was Rs. 4,62,709. The decrease of Rs. 34,000 in the net revenue almost exactly represents an extraordinary item on account of receipts from inám forests in the Panch Maháls included in the accounts for 1893-94.

CHAPTER I.

EXTENSION AND CONSTITUTION OF STATE FORESTS.

(i).—ALTERATION OF AREA.

8. The changes of area of the State forests which have taken place during the past year are given in Form No. 46. The following abstract statement shows the result of these changes :—

Class of Forests.	Area on 1st July 1894.	Added during the year.	Excluded or transferred during the year.	Area on 30th June 1895.	Remarks.
	Sq.m. a.	Sq.m. a.	Sq.m. a.	Sq.m. a.	
Reserved	1,104 369	81 638	4 228	1,182 139	
Protected	603 429	.....	154 111	449 318	
Leased	678 320	.....	.....	678 320	
Total ...	2,386 478	81 638	158 339	2,310 137	

(ii).—FOREST SETTLEMENT.

9. Mr. Orr, I.C.S., in Thána, was the only Forest Settlement Officer at work in the Circle during the year.

10. The demarcation of the Murbád Táluka was completed during the year and a portion of it settled, and a commencement of demarcation was made in Sháhápur.

11. Mr. Orr writes :—"The year has been a most unsatisfactory one owing mainly I fear to my ill-health, and also to the fact that I was thrown hopelessly into arrears last rains through being put in charge of an Assistant Collector's office, which is by itself usually considered over-worked, for 3 months and that at a time when I had been forced by ill-health to take short leave, and, in addition to the heavy work of compiling a report on the Dáhánu Forest, had also to send in my report on the Karjat Thákur settlement."

12. Areas as detailed below were obtained by purchase and exchange during the year :—

	A.	g.	Amount. Rs.	a.	p.
Acquired by compensation	77	38½	805	4	4
Do. on exchange	3	31½	.....		
Total ...	81	30	805	4	4

13. The following statement gives the details of cost of Forest Settlement Officer and his establishment during the year :—

No.	Division.	Forest Settlement Officer. Pay.	Forest Settlement Officer. Travelling Allowances.	Office Establishment. Pay.	Office Establishment. Travelling Allowances.	Contingencies.	Total.
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1	Thána	10,061 15 6	2,065 2 2	4,823 3 7	1,056 4 8	476 6 2	18,483 0 1

14. With reference to demarcation and settlement work still remaining to be done Mr. Orr writes of Thána :—"There remains now only the Sháhápur Táluka to be demarcated. In Sálsette no work remains to be done except the formal settlement of 16½ gunthas in the village of Mire. In each of the other tálukas there is more or less work in the shape of land acquisition and formal proceedings under the Forest Act as follows :—

Names of Ranges.	Stages of outstanding work. Occupied Lands to be acquired, By Exchange or Compensation. Negotiations proceeding.	Negotiations completed.	Land to be notified under Land Acquisition Act.	Land to be notified under Section 4.	Land to be settled under Section 7.	Land to be notified under Section 19.	Total.	Remarks.
East Thána.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	
Bhiwndi	16	...	...	...	29	...	45	
Kalyán	100	47	...	55	...	...	202	Most of the negotiations are very near completion.
Khardi	...	...	...	...	84	...	84	Tánsa forest.
Mokháda	2	22	...	36	...	900	960	
Sháhápur	...	...	...	...	2,382	...	2,382	Tánsa forest.
Váda	...	...	3	22	1,533	...	1,558	
Total ...	118	69	3	113	4,028	900	5,231	
West Thána.								
Bassein	10	3	...	3	1	...	17	
Dáhánu	67	89	2	15	362	...	535	In the 39 villages demarcated by Mr. McIver.
Máhim	194	...	4	9	2,724	...	2,931	Most of the negotiations are very near completion.
Sálsette	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	Ditto.
Total ..	271	92	6	27	3,088	...	3,484	
Grand Total ...	389	161	9	140	7,116	900	8,715	

To this must, however, be added the completion of the Settlement of Murbád and the Demarcation and Settlement of Sháhápur. Mr. Orr, however, adds: "I have good hopes that the whole work of the district will be complete by the end of 1896."

15. In the Mándvi Táluka of Surat the sanctioned demarcation has been found to be so faulty that it has been ordered in Government Resolution No. 6702 of 2nd September 1895, that it be revised. It is confidently expected, however, that the work will be completed during the coming season.

16. In the rest of Surat and in the Panch Mahál settlement is complete.

(iii).—DEMARCATION.

17. The following statement shows the clearance of boundary lines and the erection of forest boundary marks effected during the year :—

No.	Division.	Length of Boundary demarcated.	Number of Cairns erected.		Amount spent.	Rate per mile.	Remarks.
			Large.	Small.			
					Rs. a. p.	Rs.	
1	East Thána ...	17	...	290	195 13 9	...	
2	West Thána ...	34½	114	4	68 3 0	..	
3	Surat ...	30½	210	187	811 7 3	...	
4	Panch Mahál ...	23	...	55	2,282 1 6	...	
	Total ...	105	324	536	3,357 9 6	11½	
	Total of 1893-94 ...	139½	752	313	3,730 0 0	26¾	

(iv).—SURVEYS.

18. The following statement furnished by the Superintendent of Forest Survey Work and its cost during *survey year* 1894-95 in this Circle :—

Description of Survey.	Scale.	District.	Area in Square miles.	Total Cost for Survey year.	Cost rate. Square mile.	Remarks.
				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
Triangulation ...	8″ mile.	West Thána.	205	970 4 5	6 11 3	Máhím Táluka.
Traversing ...	...	.....	200	970 4 5	4 13 7	Máhím Táluka.
Detail Survey ...	...	East Thána...	5,557	9,462 1 9	170 7 4	Váda Táluka.
Total ...	...	.....	...	11,402 10 7	...	

19. The actual cost debited to the Northern Circle during the *forest year* was Rs. 11,219-2-7.

CHAPTER II.

MANAGEMENT OF STATE FORESTS.

I.—REGULATION AND MANAGEMENT.

(*a*).—Working Plans and their Control.

20. The Working Plans Division was in charge of Mr. G. P. Millett, Deputy Conservator of Forests, 4th Grade, during practically the whole year.